

24. The assembly of claim 22, wherein the expandable member comprises a stent. ✓

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25. The assembly of claim 22, wherein the expandable member has a first configuration to allow for insertion of the assembly into a lumen in the body passageway.

26. The assembly of claim 25, wherein the expandable member has a second configuration whereby a diameter of the longitudinal passageway approximately matches a diameter of the lumen.

27. The assembly of claim 22, wherein the tissue is disposed adjacent to the interior surface of the expandable member.

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28. The assembly of claim 22, wherein the tissue is disposed adjacent to an exterior surface of the expandable member.

29. The assembly of claim 27, wherein the tissue is at least as long as the longitudinal passage.

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30. The assembly of claim 27, wherein a portion of the tissue extends beyond at least one end of the longitudinal passage.

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31. The assembly of claim 30, wherein the portion of the tissue that extends beyond the end of the longitudinal passage folds back over a first end of the expandable member to a position adjacent to an exterior surface of the expandable member.

32. The assembly of claim 31, wherein the extending portion of the tissue folds back to form a sleeve.

33. The assembly of claim 27, wherein the tissue has a length about twice as long as the expandable member and forms both an internal lining of the expandable member and an external cover of the expandable member.

34. The assembly of claim 27, wherein a first end of the tissue extends beyond a first end of the expandable member and a second end of the tissue extends beyond a second end of the expandable member, and wherein the first and second ends of the tissue both fold back over respective ends of the expandable member to meet about midway between the first and second ends of the expandable member to form an external cover of the expandable member.

35. The assembly of claim 34, wherein the first and second ends of the tissue are secured together, secured to the expandable member, or secured to a portion of the tissue adjacent the interior surface of the expandable member.

36. The assembly of claim 22, wherein the tissue comprises a tubular structure.

37. The assembly of claim 22, wherein the tissue comprises a body tissue.

38. The assembly of claim 37, wherein the body tissue comprises a blood vessel.

39. The assembly of claim 38, wherein the blood vessel comprises at least one of a recently extracted blood vessel and a thawed blood vessel which had been previously extracted and frozen.

40. The assembly of claim 38, wherein the blood vessel comprises a vein.

41. The assembly of claim 36, wherein the tubular structure comprises a mammalian blood vessel.

42. The assembly of claim 41, wherein the mammalian blood vessel comprises a human blood vessel.

43. The assembly of claim 22, wherein the tissue is secured to the expandable member.

44. The assembly of claim 43, wherein the tissue is stitched to the expandable member.

45. The assembly of claim 43, wherein the tissue is glued to the expandable member.

46. The assembly of claim 43 wherein the tissue is welded to the expandable member.

47. The assembly of claim 43 wherein a first portion of the tissue is fixed to a second portion of the tissue to secure the tissue to the expandable member.

48. The assembly of claim 22, further comprising a delivery sheath which encompasses the expandable member and the tissue.

49. The assembly of claim 22, further comprising a catheter assembly disposed within the longitudinal passage to expand the expandable member.

50. The assembly of claim 22, wherein the expandable member is deformable.

51. A method of preparing a graft prosthesis for insertion into a body passageway comprising the steps of:

providing an expandable member having an interior surface defining a longitudinal passage; and

providing a tissue adjacent to the expandable member.

52. The method of claim 51, further comprising the step of placing the tissue adjacent to the interior surface of the expandable member.

53. The method of claim 51, further comprising the step of placing the tissue adjacent to an exterior surface of the expandable member.

54. The method of claim 51, wherein the tissue is at least as long as the longitudinal passage.

55. The method of claim 54, further comprising the step of placing the tissue so that a portion of the tissue extends beyond at least one end of the longitudinal passage.

56. The method of claim 55, further comprising the step of folding the portion of the tissue that extends beyond the end of the longitudinal passage back over a first end of the expandable member to a position adjacent to an exterior surface of the expandable member.

57. The method of claim 56, further comprising the step of folding the extending portion of the tissue back to form a sleeve.

58. The method of claim 56, wherein the tissue has a length about twice as long as the expandable member and forms both an internal lining of the expandable member and an external cover of the expandable member.

59. The method of claim 54, further comprising the steps of:

placing the tissue so that a first end of the tissue extends beyond a first end of the expandable member and a second end of the tissue extends beyond a second end of the expandable member; and

folding back the first and second ends of the tissue over respective ends of the expandable member to meet about midway between the first and second ends of the expandable member to form an external cover of the expandable member.

60. The method of claim 59, further comprising the step of securing the first and second ends of the tissue together, to the expandable member, or to a portion of the tissue adjacent the interior surface of the expandable member.

61. The method of claim 51, further comprising the step of securing the tissue to the expandable member.

62. The method of claim 51, further comprising the step of stitching the tissue to the expandable member.

63. The method of claim 51, further comprising the step of gluing the tissue to the expandable member.

64. The method of claim 51, further comprising the step of welding the tissue to the expandable member.

65. The method of claim 51, further comprising the step of fixing a first portion of the tissue to a second portion of the tissue to secure the tissue to the expandable member.

66. The method of claim 51, further comprising the step of disposing the graft prosthesis in a delivery sheath.

67. The method of claim 51, further comprising the step of disposing a catheter assembly within the longitudinal passage.

68. An assembly for insertion into a body passageway comprising:
a deformable member having an interior surface defining a longitudinal passage; and
a tissue disposed adjacent to the deformable member.

69. The assembly of claim 68, wherein the deformable member is cylindrical-shaped.

70. The assembly of claim 68, wherein the deformable member comprises a stent.

71. The assembly of claim 68, wherein the deformable member has a first configuration to allow for insertion of the assembly into a lumen in the body passageway.

72. The assembly of claim 71, wherein the deformable member has a second configuration whereby a diameter of the longitudinal passageway approximately matches a diameter of the lumen.

73. The assembly of claim 68, wherein the tissue is disposed adjacent to the interior surface of the deformable member.

74. The assembly of claim 68, wherein the tissue is disposed adjacent to an exterior surface of the deformable member.

75. The assembly of claim 73, wherein the tissue is at least as long as the longitudinal passage.

76. The assembly of claim 73, wherein a portion of the tissue extends beyond at least one end of the longitudinal passage.

77. The assembly of claim 76, wherein the portion of the tissue that extends beyond the end of the longitudinal passage folds back over a first end of the deformable member to a position adjacent to an exterior surface of the deformable member.

78. The assembly of claim 77, wherein the extending portion of the tissue folds back to form a sleeve.

79. The assembly of claim 73, wherein the tissue has a length about twice as long as the deformable member and forms both an internal lining of the deformable member and an external cover of the deformable member.

80. The assembly of claim 73, wherein a first end of the tissue extends beyond a first end of the deformable member and a second end of the tissue extends beyond a second end of the deformable member, and wherein the first and second ends of the tissue both fold back over respective ends of the deformable member to meet about midway between the first and second ends of the deformable member to form an external cover of the deformable member.

81. The assembly of claim 80, wherein the first and second ends of the tissue are secured together, secured to the deformable member, or secured to a portion of the tissue adjacent the interior surface of the deformable member.

82. The assembly of claim 68, wherein the tissue comprises a tubular structure.

83. The assembly of claim 68, wherein the tissue comprises a body tissue.

84. The assembly of claim 83, wherein the body tissue comprises a blood vessel.

85. The assembly of claim 84, wherein the blood vessel comprises at least one of a recently extracted blood vessel and a thawed blood vessel which had been previously extracted and frozen.

86. The assembly of claim 84, wherein the blood vessel comprises a vein.

87. The assembly of claim 82, wherein the tubular structure comprises a mammalian blood vessel.

88. The assembly of claim 87, wherein the mammalian blood vessel comprises a human blood vessel.

89. The assembly of claim 68, wherein the tissue is secured to the deformable member.

90. The assembly of claim 89, wherein the tissue is stitched to the deformable member.

91. The assembly of claim 89, wherein the tissue is glued to the deformable member.

92. The assembly of claim 89, wherein the tissue is welded to the deformable member.

93. The assembly of claim 89, wherein a first portion of the tissue is fixed to a second portion of the tissue to secure the tissue to the deformable member.

94. The assembly of claim 68, further comprising a delivery sheath which encompasses the deformable member and the tissue.

95. The assembly of claim 68, further comprising a catheter assembly disposed within the longitudinal passage to expand the deformable member.

96. A method of preparing a graft prosthesis for insertion into a body passageway comprising the steps of:

providing an deformable member having an interior surface defining a longitudinal passage; and

providing a tissue adjacent to the deformable member.

97. The method of claim 96, further comprising the step of placing the tissue adjacent to the interior surface of the deformable member.

98. The method of claim 96, further comprising the step of placing the tissue adjacent to an exterior surface of the deformable member.

99. The method of claim 96, wherein the tissue is at least as long as the longitudinal passage.

100. The method of claim 99, further comprising the step of placing the tissue so that a portion of the tissue extends beyond at least one end of the longitudinal passage.

101. The method of claim 100, further comprising the step of folding the portion of the tissue that extends beyond the end of the longitudinal passage back over a first end of the deformable member to a position adjacent to an exterior surface of the deformable member.

102. The method of claim 101, further comprising the step of folding the extending portion of the tissue back to form a sleeve.

103. The method of claim 101, wherein the tissue has a length about twice as long as the deformable member and forms both an internal lining of the deformable member and an external cover of the deformable member.

104. The method of claim 99, further comprising the steps of:

placing the tissue so that a first end of the tissue extends beyond a first end of the deformable member and a second end of the tissue extends beyond a second end of the deformable member; and

folding back the first and second ends of the tissue over respective ends of the deformable member to meet about midway between the first and second ends of the deformable member to form an external cover of the deformable member.

105. The method of claim 104, further comprising the step of securing the first and second ends of the tissue together, to the deformable member, or to a portion of the tissue adjacent the interior surface of the deformable member.

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106. The method of claim 96, further comprising the step of securing the tissue to the deformable member.

107. The method of claim 96, further comprising the step of stitching the tissue to the deformable member.

108. The method of claim 96, further comprising the step of gluing the tissue to the deformable member.

109. The method of claim 96, further comprising the step of welding the tissue to the deformable member.

110. The method of claim 96, further comprising the step of fixing a first portion of the tissue to a second portion of the tissue to secure the tissue to the deformable member.

111. The method of claim 96, further comprising the step of disposing the graft prosthesis in a delivery sheath.